

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 736

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL ADANA

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SUBJECT: TURKISH COMMENTS ON ISTANBUL ROUND FIR
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) ANKARA 7035 DTG 121441Z SEP 75

B) ATHENS 6985 DTG 121255Z SEP 75 (NOTAL)

1. MFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, YUKSEL
SOYLIMEZ, BRIEFED EMBOFFS SEPTEMBER 15 ON THE ISTANBUL
ROUND OF THE GREEK-TURKISH FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR)
NEGOTIATIONS. AS USUAL, SOYLEMEZ WAS QUITE CIRCUMSPECT
AND APOLOGETICALLY DECLINED TO GO MUCH BEYOND WHAT WAS
STATED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (REF A) ON GROUNDS IT WOULD
BE "IMPROPER" FOR A NEGOTIATOR TO DO SO. IN AN ASIDE
SAID HIS GREEK COLLEAGUE MIGHT BE WILLING TO TALK MORE FREELY AND
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IF SO WE "SHOULD LISTEN."

2. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT DURING THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS NO PROGRESS WAS MADE. IN FACT, BOTH SIDES SEEMED TO BE HARDENING THEIR POSITIONS. ON THE THIRD DAY A SET OF COMPROMISE PROPOSALS WAS PRESENTED BY THE TURKISH SIDE. (SOYLEMEZ REFUSED TO ADMIT THE PROPOSALS ORIGINATED WITH THE TURKS, BUT IT WAS CLEAR FROM HIS COMMENTS THAT THIS WAS THE CASE.) ACCORDING TO SOYLEMEZ THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE "GIVEN PRIORITY ATTENTION" BY BOTH SIDES AND WILL BE THE BASIS FOR THE NEXT ROUND. AS HAPPENED PRIOR TO THE ISTANBUL ROUND, SOYLEMEZ AND HIS COUNTERPART, DENIS CARAYANNIS, MAY HOLD A SECRET MEETING PRIOR TO THE NEXT FORMAL MEETING IN ORDER TO AGREE TO AN AGENDA. HE EXPECTS THE NEXT FORMAL MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN GREECE PRIOR TO THE END OF OCTOBER.

3. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT AS THE COMMUNIQUE STATED, THE NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS HAS INDEED BEEN REDUCED. SEVERAL TIMES HE SAID "WE ARE MOVING CLOSER." HE REMAINS CONVINCED OF THE GOOD FAITH OF THE GREEK NEGOTIATORS AND OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HE HAS A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE SUCCESS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND HE HOPES THEY WILL BE CONCLUDED SOON.

4. ON THE LESS POSITIVE SIDE, SOYLEMEZ WAS SOMEWHAT UPSET THAT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN ATHENS, AS HE HAD RECEIVED IT, HAD TEN DISCREPANCIES FROM THE AGREED ENGLISH TEXT. WHILE SOME OF THESE APPEARED INSUBSTANTIAL, OTHERS SEEMED TO CHANGE THE MEANING OF THE COMMUNIQUE, AND ONE WAS INSULTING. THE LATTER WAS THE USE OF "CONSTANTINOPLE" IN PLACE OF "ISTANBUL" AS THE SITE OF THE TALKS. OF PROBABLE SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE WAS A CHANGE IN THE CONCLUDING LINE OF PARAGRAPH THREE FROM "TO RESTORE AND ENSURE THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF AIR TRAFFIC IN THE AEGEAN" TO "TO REMOVE THE OBSTACLES TO RESUMPTION OF NORMAL OPERATIONS IN AEGEAN AIR CORRIDOR" (QUOTATION INEXACT). SOYLEMEZ SAID SIMILAR WORD CHANGES HAD HAPPENED BEFORE AND HE HAD IGNORED THEM, BUT HE COULD NO LONGER DO SO.

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5. SOYLEMEZ SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COMMENCEMENT IN LATE SEPTEMBER AT AN UNNAMED WESTERN EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF GREEK-TURKISH TALKS ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. HE SAID HE HOPES THE FIR TALKS WILL BE A MODEL FOR THESE TALKS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HE SAID HE IS NOT CONCERNED THAT BEGINNING TALKS AT THIS TIME MIGHT COMPLICATE THE FIR NEGOTIATIONS.
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